

REMARKS

The statement in the outstanding Office Action that claims 4-7 and 12-14 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is appreciated.

Claim 4 has been canceled and the features of claim 4 have been introduced into independent claim 1. Similarly, claim 12 has been canceled and the features of canceled claim 12 have been incorporated into claim 9.

Independent claim 15 is introduced and includes the features of canceled claim 5 and independent claim 1. New claims 16 and 17 are based upon canceled claims 7 and 8. New Claims 18-20 are based upon original claims 2, 3, and 8.

New claim 21 is based upon canceled claim 13 and original claim 9. New claim 22 is based upon canceled claim 14. New claims 23 and 24 are based upon original claims 10 and 11.

It is submitted that the amendment to the claims introduces dependent claims as independent claims, and introduces additional dependent claims based upon previously pending dependent claims. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by this amendment, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1-3, 8-11, and 15-24 are active in this application.

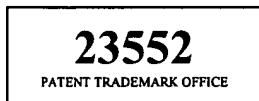
The outstanding Office Action includes two prior art-based rejections. Claims 1-3 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,882,058 (Karrer). In addition, claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Karrer. In view of the above amendment, it is believed that these rejections have been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of these prior art-based rejections is requested.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: October 26, 2004



Dennis R. Daley
Reg. No. 34,994
DRD:jjb